**Short project under rural posting at KRHTC Anji**

**Qualitative Study of Village Health, Nutrition And Sanitation Committee regarding their roles and responsibilities in Health Management.**

**Introduction:**

National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) seeks to provide accessible, affordable and quality health care to the rural population, especially the vulnerable sections. It also seeks to improve the maternal and child health services throughout the country1.

The NRHM has placed strong emphasis in addressing local issues and its solutions and making it community centric through the involvement of PRI’s. In the process, the responsibility of preparing village health plans, its implementation and monitoring has been entrusted to the Village Health Nutrition and Sanitation Committee (VHNSC) of the Gram Panchayat.2

It is expected that community leaders will participate in the governance and improvement of the health facilities of the area. The untied funds will be utilized with the consensus of the community but the process of community participation is slow.3

Hence, this study is conducted to see the status of VHNSC regarding their roles and responsibilities in management of village health.

**Objectives :**

1. To study VHNSC regarding their roles and responsibilities in management of village health.
2. To study the preparation of village health plan, conduct of a meeting, decision-making, resource management and conflict resolution within Village Health Nutrition Sanitation committee.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS:**

**Study area:**

The study will be carried out in the selected villages under field practice area of Rural Health Training Centre, Anji which is a peripheral centre of Department of Community Medicine, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Sewagram.

One village from each subcenter will be selected by simple random sampling method and the subcenter village itself will be included in study i.e. total 6 villages (3 villages and 3 subcenters) will be included in study.

**Study duration**: Jan-Feb 2010

**Study design**: Community based study adopting qualitative methods.

**Methods:**

Focus Group Discussion of the VHNSC members and In Depth Interview (president and secretary and one member of VHNSC) will be carried.

The purpose of the study will be explained orally and written consent will be taken from the voluntarily participating members

**TOPIC for FGD:**

Focus Group discussion will be done including perception of VHNSC members regarding their orientation in VHNSC activities ,village health plan and progress.

**Important topics for In Depth Interview:**

In depth interview will be conducted on the following topic with help of open ended questions to collect more information.

* **Constitution of VHNSC:**

The in depth interview will be conducted of the president, secretary and the any other member of the VHNSC, separately. Following points will be discussed in the interview like the process of villagers being informed about the constitution of VHNSC, how was it decided that who will be the member of VHNSC – Was a Gram Sabha conducted? How many villagers were present during the Gram Sabha etc.

**Orientation of VHNSC members:**

* + All Presidents and Secretaries of VHNSC of the selected villages will be asked about the need of establishing/developing VHNSC and their roles and responsibility.

**Capacity building:**

Interviewer will be discussed about any training program was arranged for them by the district health system. Who attended the training? How was it decided that which member will attend the training program. The VHNSC members will be asked how frequently they arrange meetings, on pre-decided date, how they decide the major health problem in the village, how they decide that which steps should be taken to solve the problem, how they plan to form plan of action and proper resources utilization. Which difficulties they face in implementation of their plan.

* **Assessment of information need at village level:**
  + The discussion will be facilitated to know about their Village Health Plan which they had already prepared, to identify how they will be get information in order to monitor the progress towards the achievement of objectives and to evolve strategies to meet the objectives. Any guide they have for this?
* **Assessment of plan implementing activities:** 
  + The village health plan activities will be discussed in detail and information will be gathered about their progress.
* **Collection of information:**
  + For each indicator, in depth interview will be taken. Dates of data collection, submission of information and frequency of data collection will be asked.
* **Use of information:**
  + The collected information how they analysed and discussed in monthly VHNSC meetings. Based on the information, VHNSC will be asked about certain actions taken to achieve the objectives/Targets, they had committed in their Village Health Plan.
* **Budget management:**
  + Village health fund expenditure : under heads like cleanliness drive, sanitation drive, school health activities, ICDS, Anganwadi level activities, household surveys etc.
* **Feed back/Communication and supervision:**
  + VHNSC will be asked about communication of information along with actions taken, to Block Level Panchayat Samiti , how they provide feedback to the VHNSC in their monthly meeting.
* **Documentation:**
  + How the documention of the process of gathering, interpretation and decision making and capacity building coordinated activities are carried out. The report thus prepared how they used for dissemination and its possible replication.

**Analysis of the variables:** The data will be analysed using Anthropac software.

**References:**

1.Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. National Rural Health Mission: broad framework for preparation of district health action plan. New Delhi; Government of India. August 2006

2.National Rural Health Mission, Government of Rajasthan. Panchayati Raj Institutions and NRHM (online) Available from: URL: <http://www.nrhmrajasthan.nic.in/pri&nrhm>

3. Sharma AK. National rural health mission: Time to take stock. Indian J Community Med 2009;34:175-82